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THE BARONIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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XIV.

ASHEPOO BARONY.

The Ashepoo Barony although granted as a barony and granted to a Landgrave entitled to hold a barony yet as in the case of Boon's Barony¹ did not contain the full 12,000 acres properly required to constitute a barony, being only for 6,000 acres. It was granted to Landgrave Edmund Bellinger, an account of the date of the granting of whose patent was given in the article on the Tomotley Barony in a previous number of this magazine.²

So far as the writer has ascertained from the record it does not appear from what part of England Edmund Bellinger came. He first appears in the Province about 1692 and is then styled "Captain." He had a brother, Richard Bellinger, who appeared in the Province about 1694 and who must have died about 1700, as on 10 May, 1700, Edmund Bellinger gives bond as administrator of Richard Bellinger's estate.³ There also appears upon the record a

¹S. C. Hist. & Gen. Mag: vol. 13, p. 71.

²Ibid, vol. 15, p. 9.

³Ibid, vol. 12, p. 72.

bond given 15 Jany, 1699-1700, by Elizabeth Bellinger with Edmund Bellinger as one of her sureties for the administration by Elizabeth Bellinger of the estate of John Bellinger.⁴ But who this John Bellinger was does not seem to appear upon the record. In a letter from Col. James Moore to the Governor of South Carolina, giving an account of the military expedition of Moore against the Appalachian Indians in 1703-4, as published in Carroll's Historical Collections, vol. 2, p. 574, he says: "Capt John Bellinger fighting bravely at the head of our men was killed at my foot." This Capt: John Bellinger was supposed to have had some connection with the Landgrave. This it now appears was a mistake. The original letter dated 16 April, 1704, is among the State Paper Records in London, and the transcript procured some 20 years ago and now in Columbia (Public Records of S. C. London MSS. vol. 19, p. 145) shows that the correct reading is Capt: John Berringer and not Bellinger. Further, as he was killed in 1704, he could not be this John Bellinger, whose estate was administered in 1699-1700. On 17 May, 1701, a grant was made to John Berringer for 1,800 acres,⁵ which by his will he devised to his sister, Mary Berringer, who subsequently married Robert Bishop and with her husband conveyed it to John Gibbes.⁶ This tract afterwards as the property of the Hon. William Middleton was his estate in St. James Goose Creek called Crowfield and well known for its fine brick mansion and beautiful grounds and gardens. In the life of Eliza Lucas, by M^{rs}. St. Julien Ravenel, is a letter from Miss Lucas, giving an account of the place and of her stay there. On 20 Febry, 1701, letters of administration are granted to John Berringer on the estate of Col. John (or Jehu) Berringer of Barbadoes, and it is likely that it was the John Berringer mentioned in the grant of the land and of this administration who was the Capt: John Berringer killed on Moore's expedition.

This leaves undetermined who was the John Bellinger on whose estate Elizabeth Bellinger administered in 1699-

⁴Ibid, vol. 10, p. 243.

⁵Off: Secy. State, vol. 38, p. 393.

⁶Off: Hist: Comⁿ: Memo: Bk. 7, p. 98.

1700. He could not well have been the son of Edmund Bellinger. He may have been a son of Richard Bellinger or may have been another brother of Edmund and Richard.

The first grant of land appearing on the record to Edmund Bellinger is dated 17 July, 1694. It is to "Capt" Edmund Bellinger for 17 acres on the East side of Cooper River known then (as it still is) as "Hogg Island."

The next is dated 14 March, 1694/5 for 20 acres on the Southwest side of 'Ittawan Island' (now known as Daniell's Island⁸).

On 8 Sept., 1697, a grant was made to him of 1,000 acres⁹ which was on the East side of Wando River.¹⁰ His patent as Landgrave was made 7 May, 1698, and on 28 Aug., 1701, a grant was made to him as "Landgrave Edmund Bellinger" of 1,290 acres on Stono River near New Cut.¹¹ It was from this tract that subsequently 30 acres was given to the Parish of St. Paul for the construction of a Church.¹² This 1,290 acres altho' granted to him designating him as "Landgrave" does not appear to have been granted as any part of the 48,000 acres under his Landgrave's patent. The first grant under the patent was dated 12 Decr, 1702, and after reciting the patent to him as Landgrave, proceeds:

"We whose Names are here under Written Do give & "grant unto the Said Landgrave Edmund Bellinger a Plantation or Barrony Containing Six thousand acres of Land "English measure now in the possession of the S^d. Landgrave Edmund Bellinger scituate Lying in Colleton County "& butting & bounding as appears by a Platt thereof here- "unto annexed as part of y^e Said fforty eight thousand "acres."

There is no plat annexed, but there is a copy of the surveyor's certificate dated 20 Sept., 1701, stating that the land was "Lying & being on the South Side of y^e head of "Ashepoo River."¹³

⁷Off: Secy. State, Bk. 38, p. 151.

⁸Off: Secy. State, Bk. 38, p. 282.

⁹Ibid, p. 342.

¹⁰S. C. Hist. & Gen. Mag: vol. 10, p. 238.

¹¹Off: Secy. State, Bk. 38, p. 404.

¹²S. C. Hist. & Gen. Mag: vol. 11, p. 72.

¹³Off: Hist. Com., Bk. F, p. 40.

The first Landgrave died leaving, according to the recitals in some deeds, a will dated 10th October, 1705. There appears to be no copy of this Will on record nor any evidence showing the exact date of his death. There is on record a bond dated 31 Jany, 1709/10 given by Elizabeth Bellinger with Sam^l Eveleigh as surety for the administration by Elizabeth Bellinger of the estate of Edmund Bellinger, Esq. deceased.¹⁴ If this referred to the first Landgrave, it might give approximately the date of his death, but there are a number of circumstances that would appear to the contrary. It is a bond for administration when he appears to have left a will: it does not refer to him by his title as Landgrave and as he left sons one of them should more naturally have administered, as it does not appear whether the Elizabeth who administered was his wife or daughter. At the same time there is no other known Edmund Bellinger to whom it may refer—the Executors named in the Will (if any were named) may have all died or refused to act, and his sons may in 1709 have been under age.

If the Edmund Bellinger referred to in this administration was the first Landgrave then it is likely that the Elizabeth was his widow. There appears upon the record two grants to an Edmund Bellinger, dated 1 May, 1708, one for 226 acres at the head of Ashepoo River, bounding East on Landgrave Bellinger's Barony, and another for 224 acres at the head of Ashepoo River.¹⁵ These grants are stated in the Memorial of the second Landgrave, made in 1733,¹⁶ to have been granted to him and not to his father. If so he should have been of age in 1709. According to this memorial the barony of 6,000 acres was devised by the first Landgrave to his son Thomas and at the latter's death it went to the second Landgrave, his eldest brother and heir at law. Exactly who were the descendants of the first Landgrave Edmund Bellinger it is very difficult to ascertain from the record. He seems to have certainly left a son, Edmund the second Landgrave, another son, Thomas, who died early and without issue, and another son, William,

¹⁴Probate Ct. Charleston. Bk. 1716-1721, p. 140.

¹⁵Off: Secy. State, vol. 39, p. 30.

¹⁶Off: Hist: Comⁿ. Memo Bk. 3, p. 137

plat annexed to a deed made by the same Widow and Executrix in 1743¹⁹ run out in 1728 to the second Landgrave.

This 7,710 acres seems to have been disposed of as follows: The will of the second Landgrave is no longer extant but his widow in 1747 recorded her memorial purporting to show the disposition of the 4,800 acres run out under the patent.²⁰ From this it appears that of the lands at Ashepoo:

There was devised to Edmund Bellinger		
the third Landgrave	2,267	acres
To George Bellinger son of 2 ^d Landgrave	2,485	"
To William Webb had been issued (not stated in		
the memorial to be at Ashepoo, but so appearing		
in the plats)	1,000	"
Set apart to W ^m . Bellinger son of 2 ^d Landgrave		
in the division of the Estate	977	"
Set apart to Elizabeth daughter of 2 ^d Landgrave		
in do	977	"
	<hr/>	
Total	7,706	"

The 1,000 acres of William Webb appears to have been procured by him as follows: In 1734, Peter Girardeau and Elizabeth his wife conveyed to William Webb 500 acres on Ashepoo, and in 1738 Richard Baker conveys to Webb another 500 acres adjoining the first mentioned. These deeds (or the last) recite that Edmund Bellinger the first Landgrave, by his will, devised to his daughter, Margaret, the wife of Nicholas Bohun, 1,000 acres at Ashepoo: that Margaret Bohun left two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, who after the death of Nicholas and Margaret Bohun married, Mary to Richard Baker and Elizabeth to Peter Girardeau, and that the two daughters having become vested with the 1,000 acres as the heirs of their mother, divided it 500 acres to each. On Margaret Baker's death her 500 acres went to her husband for life, with reversions to her

¹⁹Ibid, Bk. A. A., p. 74.

²⁰Off: Hist Comⁿ. Memo. Bk. 7, p. 481.

eldest son, William Baker. These two sales thus passed the whole 1,000 acres to Webb. From this marriage, between Richard Baker and Mary Bohun the name Bohun was introduced in the Baker Family of Ashley River. Nicholas Bohun who married Margaret Bellinger was the son of the Chief Justice Edmund Bohun, who died in 1699. As the second Landgrave's Memorial mentions the entire 6,000 acre barony as having come to him, this 1,000 acres must have been included in the two other tracts mentioned as run out under the patent for 640 and 620 acres respectively.²¹

Elizabeth the daughter of the second Landgrave married Thomas Wright and thereafter died without issue so that her 977 acres descended to her brother Edmund as her heir at law.²² In the excellent account of the three first generations of the Bellingers, written by M^r. A. S. Salley, J^r., and published in the "State" newspaper 12 December, 1909, and given with the care and accuracy characteristic of M^r. Salley he does not mention Thomas, or Elizabeth who married John Palmer, among the children of the first Landgrave, nor Elizabeth among the children of the second Landgrave, but this is because, as M^r. Salley is careful to say, that he mentions only what in the course of his own researches he has happened to find record of.

There is an account of the Bellingers published in a pamphlet styled "A History and Genealogy of the Families of Bellinger and De Veaux, and other Families," by D^r. Joseph G. Bulloch, published in 1895. This pamphlet gives no authorities for its statements and much of the matter contained in it is so contradicted by the record and so hypothetical and unsupported by any reliable authority, as well as confused and inconsistent that it is not to be relied on as safe authority. The author is no doubt well meaning and zealous and has given oral information and tradition as imparted to him, supplemented by a good deal of surmise, but he has not followed the true methods of the study of genealogy upon modern scientific lines.

The land of Landgrave Bellinger at the Ashepoo, or at least the Barony part of it, seems, according to some of the

²¹M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. M. M., pp. 108 and 111.

²²Ibid, Bk. H. N^o. 4, p. 216.

deeds, to have been known during the time of the second Landgrave as the "Oketies" or "Oketys."

In 1768 the third Landgrave seems to have sold the 977 acres he had inherited from his sister Elizabeth to Barnard Elliott in whose hands it became known as "Bellevue."²³

It was on this plantation that Col. Barnard Elliott before the revolutionary war erected the "temple" of which M^r. William Elliott in his *Carolina Sports* gives the following account in the chapter on "A day at Chee-Ha."

"The traveller in South Carolina, who passes along the "road between the Ashepoo and Combahee rivers will be "struck by the appearance of two lofty white columns, rising "among the pines that skirt the road. They are the only "survivors of eight, which supported in times anterior to "our revolutionary war, a sylvan temple, erected by a gentleman, who to the higher qualities of a devoted patriot, "united the taste and liberality of the sportsman. The spot "was admirably chosen, being on the brow of a piney ridge, "which slopes away at a long gun-shot's length into a thick "swamp; and many a deer has, we doubt not, in times past, "been shot from the temple when it stood in its pride—as "we ourselves have struck them from its ruins."

All of the columns are now fallen and even the bricks have been largely removed.

Col: Barnard Elliott was the son of Barnard Elliott and grandson of William Elliott and his wife, Katherine Schencking, daughter of Bernard Schencking, from whom the name Bernard, or as later Barnard, came into the Elliott family. Col: Elliott had early taken an active part in the military preparation for the revolutionary war. From Captain he had advanced, until at his death, 25 October, 1778, he was Lieut: Col: of the Regiment of Artillery on the Continental Establishment in the State. In 1766 he had married Mary Bellinger Elliott²⁴ which marriage formed the fourth in direct succession of as many ladies who had become M^{rs}. Elliotts. Shem Butler of Ashley Ferry left a widow, Esther Butler, who married William Elliott.²⁵

²³Ibid.

²⁴S. C. Hist: & Gen: Mag., vol XI, p. 60.

²⁵Ibid, vol. XIV, p. 205.

Esther Butler had a daughter Elizabeth Butler. It should he said *presumably had*, i. e. Shem Butler left a daughter, Elizabeth, and whilst she was presumably the daughter of his widow, Esther, yet it is not safe to say in genealogical inquiry that the children of a man may not have been of a previous marriage, unless the evidence is positive.

This Elizabeth Butler married Edmund Bellinger the second Landgrave and after his death she married Thomas Elliott.²⁶ Then Mary Bellinger the daughter of Landgrave Bellinger and his wife Elizabeth married Thomas Elliott, known as Thomas Law Elliott, and their daughter Mary Bellinger Elliott married Col. Barnard Elliott. Quite a puzzling succession for a genealogist.

The lands at Ashepoo continued to be held by the Bellinger family by descents, gifts and devises for many years, but gradually a large part was disposed of. In 1768, as we have seen, 977 acres was transferred to Barnard Elliott. In 1785 284 acres were sold by John Bellinger to John Hull.²⁷

In 1791, 560 acres were sold by George Bellinger to William Cotesworth Pinckney²⁸ and in 1800 he also sold 320 acres to Peter Bohun Postell.²⁹ In 1800, John Bellinger sold to Richard Jenkins 307 acres.³⁰ In 1804, Joseph Bellinger conveyed to J. H. Girardeau 1,150 acres,³¹ and in 1809 D^r. John Bellinger conveyed to D^r. John Parker Gough 537 acres.³²

The destruction of the records of Colleton County during the late war makes the examination of the conveyances of the parts of the barony impossible. A portion of it continued in the possession of a Bellinger until after 1860, so that as to a portion of the barony it continued in the same name from the grant in 1702 until after 1860.

There is no general plan of the barony as granted that the writer has ever seen. The plat annexed to this article is made up from plats of different parts of the barony annexed

²⁶S. C. Hist. & Gen. Mag: vol. 11, p. 59.

²⁷M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. O. 5, 345.

²⁸Ibid, Bk. B., N^o. 7, p. 3.

²⁹Ibid, Bk. B., N^o. 7, p. 57.

³⁰Ibid, Bk. C. 7, p. 27.

³¹Ibid, Bk. M. N^o. 7, p. 333.

³²Ibid, Bk. Y, N^o. 7, p. 281.

to partition and other deeds. They represent apparently all the land the first and second Landgraves had in one contiguous body at that point. The solid black lines denote the original lines of the barony as near as can be inferred from descriptions in deeds referring to original lines, and they are probably correct.